WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A laminate structure comprising:

a first substrate containing a thermoplastic polymer and a second substrate containing a thermoplastic polymer, wherein the thermoplastic polymer of said first substrate is fused together with the thermoplastic polymer of said second substrate to form fused portions and unfused portions located between said fused portions, said unfused portions defining elongated pockets that contain discrete regions of particles, said pockets having a length-to-width ratio of greater than about 2, wherein said fused portions define at least one perimeter region and at least one inner region, said inner region being bonded to an extent such that said inner region is capable of delaminating upon the application of a force thereto, said perimeter region withstanding substantial delamination upon the application of said force.

2. A laminate structure as defined in claim 1, wherein said perimeter region is bonded to a greater extent than said inner region.

3. A laminate structure as defined in claim 1, wherein said perimeter region is bonded to approximately the same extent as said inner region.

4. A laminate structure as defined in claim 1, wherein said perimeter region has a greater bond width than said inner region.

5. A laminate structure as defined in claim 1, wherein the strength of said substrates is such that said force does not cause said substrates to substantially rupture.

6. A laminate structure as defined in claim 5, wherein said perimeter region is bonded to such an extent that the strength of said perimeter region approximates the strength of said substrates.

7. A laminate structure as defined in claim 1, wherein said force is supplied by the swelling of said particles upon being contacted with a liquid.

8. A laminate structure as defined in claim 1, wherein said particles contain a superabsorbent material.

9. A laminate structure as defined in claim 1, wherein said pockets have a length-to-width ratio of between about 4 to about 100.

10. A laminate structure as defined in claim 1, wherein said pockets have a length-to-width ratio of between about 6 to about 10.

11. A laminate structure as defined in claim 1, wherein said pockets have an approximate width-to-height ratio of less than about 10.

12. A laminate structure as defined in claim 1, wherein said pockets have an approximate width-to-height ratio of between about 1 to about 5.

13. A laminate structure as defined in claim 1, wherein at least one of said substrates contains a nonwoven web.

14. A laminate structure as defined in claim 1, wherein at least one of said substrates contains a film.

15. A laminate structure as defined in claim 1, wherein said unfused portions are substantially permeable to liquids and said fused portions are substantially impermeable to liquids.

16. An absorbent article comprising:

a first substrate containing a thermoplastic polymer and a second substrate containing a thermoplastic polymer, wherein the thermoplastic polymer of said first substrate is fused together with the thermoplastic polymer of said second substrate to form fused portions and unfused portions located between said fused portions, wherein said unfused portions define elongated pockets containing discrete regions of a superabsorbent material that is capable of swelling upon being contacted with a liquid, said pockets having a length-to-width ratio of between about 4 to about 100, and wherein said fused portions define at least one perimeter region and at least one inner region, said inner region being bonded to an extent such that said inner region is capable of delaminating

upon the application of a force thereto by the swelling of said superabsorbent material, said perimeter region withstanding substantial delamination upon the application of said force.

17. An absorbent article as defined in claim 16, wherein said pockets have a length-to-width ratio between about 6 to about 10.

18. An absorbent article as defined in claim 16, wherein the strength of said substrates is such that said force does not cause said substrates to substantially rupture.

19. An absorbent article as defined in claim 16, wherein said pockets have an approximate width-to-height ratio of less than about 10.

20. An absorbent article as defined in claim 16, wherein said pockets have an approximate width-to-height ratio of between about 1 to about 5.

21. An absorbent article as defined in claim 16, wherein at least one of said substrates contains a material selected from the group consisting of nonwoven webs, films, and combinations thereof.

22. An absorbent article as defined in claim 16, wherein said unfused portions are substantially permeable to liquids and said fused portions are substantially impermeable to liquids.

23. A method for forming a laminate structure comprising:

providing a first substrate containing a thermoplastic polymer;

depositing particles onto said first substrate in discrete regions;

placing a second substrate containing a thermoplastic polymer adjacent said first substrate such that said particles are sandwiched between said first and said second substrates;

fusing the thermoplastic polymer of said first substrate with the thermoplastic polymer of said second substrate to form fused portions and unfused portions located between said fused portions, wherein said unfused portions define elongated pockets containing said discrete regions of particles, said elongated pockets having a length-to-width ratio

of greater than about 2, and wherein said fused portions define at least one perimeter region and at least one inner region, said inner region being bonded to an extent such that said inner region is capable of delaminating upon the application of a force thereto, said perimeter region withstanding substantial delamination upon the application of said force.

24. A method as defined in claim 23, wherein said force is supplied by the swelling of said particles upon being contacted with a liquid.

25. A method as defined in claim 23, wherein said particles contain a superabsorbent material.

26. A method as defined in claim 23, wherein said pockets have a length-to-width ratio of between about 4 to about 100.

27. A method as defined in claim 23, wherein said pockets have a length-to-width ratio of between about 6 to about 10.

28. A method as defined in claim 23, wherein the strength of said substrates is such that said force does not cause said substrates to substantially rupture.

29. A method as defined in claim 23, wherein at least one of said substrates contains a material selected from the group consisting of nonwoven webs, films, and combinations thereof.

30. A method as defined in claim 23, wherein said fusing is accomplished by a technique selected from the group consisting of thermal bonding, ultrasonic bonding, adhesive bonding, and combinations thereof.